

Union Board of Education

Union, CT 06076

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Union School Library

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Andrea Estell.

Attending: A. Estell, A. Blank, E. Fournier, J. Kavanagh, E. Perkins, M. Silbermann
Sup./Prin. S. Jackopsic, M. Powers, Rec. Secretary

Others Attending: P. Zulick-Bessette, J. Curving, L. Barlow, K. Deptula, Z. Lambert, H. Lambert, E. Forziati, L. Trinique, B. Bousquet, J. Salzarulo, A. Anthony, J. Voter, T. Voter, K. Leone, A. Fischetti, S. Flannery, K. Crevier, R. Robinson, J. McCusker, T. Knight and some of the middle school students.

Approval of Minutes

E. Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes from September 11 and 25, 2024.
Seconded by J. Kavanagh. Unanimously approved.

Individuals to be heard- none.

Communications: Sup./Prin. Jackopsic informed those in attendance that The Woodstock Academy finalized a \$20,900 private tuition rate for the 2025-26 school year, addressed the parent inquiries for the recent Woodstock visitation and said he recently received a letter from the superintendent in Thompson about their high school as a possible option in the future.

Administrative Reports and Activities Summary

a. Superintendent and Principal's Report- Sup./Prin. Jackopsic reported that the Open House went well with a nice turnout by students and parents. PreK through grade 3 recently took a field trip to Buell's Orchard. Grades 6-8 took a field trip to UConn's Plant Sciences Department. We are looking at having grades 2-8 attend the Coast Guard Academy's Band performance. Bike helmets for kids are available through a grant with the state. The Department of Agriculture's CT Grown for Kids grant of ~\$4700.00 was received for tower gardens in classrooms and other outdoor items. The Increasing Educator Diversity Plan submission date has been postponed to November 1st. The staff continues professional development sessions with HMH (reading program) and CREC for working with students with disabilities. A new professional learning opportunity with Reading Affinity Groups is now being offered at no cost to districts. Sup./Prin. Jackopsic, Mr. LaMonica and Mrs. Pitruzzello recently met with Jason Highland of Project Imo to discuss the development of 2025 summer programming. The Safety Committee will be meeting again soon.

Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum- meeting soon to discuss the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.
- b. Communication- none.
- c. Transportation- will discuss under New Business.

- d. Personnel- none.
- e. Building- ITS has been in to review systems.
- f. EASTCONN- none.

Financial Report

- a. Review of bills- The bills were reviewed and in order.
- b. 2024-2025 BOE Spending Plan- On track at this point in time

Old Business

a. High School Discussion of Next Steps- Sup./Prin. Jackopsic presented and distributed copies of the financial impact with estimates, projections and current costs. The BOE does not have information on Woodstock Academy private, non-sending town tuitions or agreements. He noted that there are some grants available for private tuition students. The BOF meets Tuesday, October 15 where these projected costs will be presented. A decision on high school will be made at the next BOE meeting on October 23rd.

New Business

a. Transportation RFP- Sup./Prin. Jackopsic distributed copies of the Transportation Request for Proposals to the board and others in attendance. Bids must be submitted by 12:00 pm on December 4, 2024. A. Blank made a motion for Sup./Prin. Jackopsic to open the RFP and send to vendors for bidding. M. Silbermann seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Individuals to be heard- Some of the parents attending the meeting advocated to continue The Woodstock Academy as a high school choice, citing personal experiences. There were questions about when the BOE would be finalizing the decision and a few questions about the transportation proposals.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by A. Blank. J. Kavanagh seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Powers, Recording Secretary.